



News Release

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Stephen McNeil, MLA
Liberal Leader

LIBERAL LEGISLATION AIMS TO BRING CONSISTENCY TO FIRE SERVICES ACROSS THE PROVINCE

(Halifax, NS) Liberal leader Stephen McNeil says firefighters in Nova Scotia aren't getting the leadership they need at the provincial level and establishing a Fire Commissioner would provide the proper framework to pull together fire services across the province.

"Firefighters are every bit as important as our police and ambulance services," says McNeil, "but they don't get the same support from the province. Right now, garbage collection is more consistently mandated than fire services."

McNeil points out that the lack of structure and responsible management has left career and volunteer firefighters vulnerable to questionable conditions, a shortage of resources and in some instances, lawsuits.

"Firefighters have told us they require high-level organization to ensure correct and consistent training for all members," states McNeil. "The recent lawsuit targeting a Cape Breton volunteer department only reinforces the need for a provincial Fire Commissioner."

After a summer highlighted by devastating blazes in Porter's Lake, the yacht building business in Petite Riviere and the rope factory in Prospect Bay, the Liberal leader says the importance of fire services in Nova Scotia has never been so clear.

"The legislation we are introducing in the fall will create an Office of Fire Services under the Department of Labour and in turn, a provincial Fire Commissioner," explains McNeil.

"Having a responsible and accountable representative is necessary if we are to support the hard work of firefighters here in Nova Scotia who selflessly protect all of us."

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